LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network, said arrangement comprising:

a global processor in the GPRS network that stores a global pool of available IP-addresses; and

a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS network, each of the application processors being adapted to:

store blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses, wherein the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application processors while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for additional IP-addresses;

supply an IP-address from the application processor's internal pool to a user upon request; and

request an additional IP-address from the global processor when the application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;

wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a requesting application processor, a block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-addresses in response to a request for an additional IP-address from the requesting application processor.

12. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein a given application processor is adapted to release a block of IP-addresses to users and notify the global processor of the release, if the number of IP-addresses in the internal pool of the given application processor exceeds a predefined limit.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the predefined limit is equal to two times the size of the block of IP-addresses last received from the global processor.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the global processor is arranged to release addresses that have not been used in a preceding interval of time.

15. (Previously Presented) The arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each application processor is arranged to store the internal pool of IP-addresses in a Random-Access Memory (RAM), and to make back-up copies of the internal pool on a persistent storage medium at regular intervals.

16. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for distributing resources in a network, said arrangement comprising:

a global processor in the network that stores a global pool of available resources; and

a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the network, each of the application processors being adapted to:

store blocks of resources in an internal pool of resources, wherein the size of the blocks of resources in the internal pool of each application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute resources between the global processor and the application processors while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for additional resources;

supply a resource from the application processor's internal pool to a user upon request; and

request an additional resource from the global processor when the application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty;

wherein the global processor is adapted to transfer from the global pool to a requesting application processor, a block of resources comprising a plurality of resources in response to a request for an additional resource from the requesting application processor.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of distributing IP-addresses in a General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing a global pool of available IP-addresses in a global processor in the GPRS network;

storing blocks of IP-addresses in an internal pool of IP-addresses in each of a plurality of application processors in external networks connected to the GPRS network, wherein the size of the blocks of IP-addresses in the internal pool of each application processor is dynamically adjusted to minimize the amount of traffic required to request and distribute IP-addresses between the global processor and the application processors while ensuring that a sufficient number of blocks is available to serve all requests for additional IP-addresses;

supplying IP-addresses from a given application processor's internal pool to users upon request;

requesting by the given application processor, an additional IP-address from the global processor when the given application processor's internal pool is empty or nearly empty; and

transferring from the global processor to a requesting application processor, a block of IP-addresses comprising a plurality of IP-addresses in response to a request for an additional IP-address from the requesting application processor.